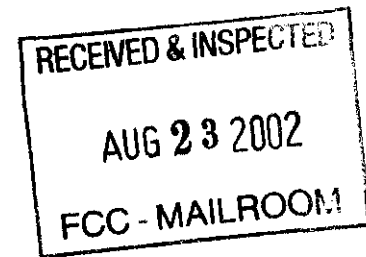


ORIGINAL

Colorado Education Network

April 16, 2002

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554



WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a businessman, I have seen the impact of telecommunications on a variety of segments of our society. As an investment banker for 18 years, I review the business plans of countless private and public sector entities. In virtually every case, the cost of, and access to, telecommunications services is a crucial part of a successful business strategy, and an important cost driver to be factored in to any enterprise.

More recently, I led the fight for a ballot measure that helped increase the financial resources the State of Colorado devotes to K-12 education. The review I conducted leading up to this successful school finance initiative again underscored the important part that telecommunications services play in the provision of education to Colorado's children.

I understand that Qwest is applying to re-enter Colorado's long distance market. I am a firm believer that competition is the best way to drive down costs, provide more consumer choice, and increase technical advances in this important sector. I strongly endorse this application, and hope you will act on it expeditiously.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Romer".
Chris Romer

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